



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 17, 2011

TO: Recreation Councils

FROM: Scott Reese, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Draft Departmental Synthetic Turf Use Guidelines

Park and Recreation Department Staff has developed new guidelines for the potential use of synthetic turf in City parks. Synthetic turf is widely used through-out the country and has been endorsed for use by the San Diego School District. While the climate in the San Diego region is ideal for natural turf, we believe that synthetic turf can be of beneficial use within the park system in certain site specific and program specific applications. We also believe that evolution of synthetic turf technology has significantly improved the installation and maintenance processes and enhanced the safety and lifecycle of materials. For those reasons, and others of water conservation and improved playability we feel it appropriate to consider the use of synthetic parks in future park plans.

Department staff intends to present an informational item on these draft Guidelines to the Community Parks I Area Committee, Community Parks II Area Committee and the Balboa Park Committee in March on the following tentative dates, times and locations:

- Community Parks I Area Committee
March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the War Memorial Bldg., Room 3
- Community Parks II Area Committee
March 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Doyle community Park, 8175 Regents Road
- Balboa Park Committee
March 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Santa Fe Room at Balboa Park

Attached are the draft Guidelines and a short cost benefits analysis comparing the cost of synthetic turf versus natural turf. Also included is a web link to the supporting technical report for your information. Should you have comments you would like to share please attend one of the scheduled meetings. We view community review as a means to refine and strengthen these draft Guidelines.

The final Guidelines will be incorporated into the Department's Consultant Guide to Park Design and Development. The Consultant Guidelines are used by City Staff and design consultants as a reference to guide decisions regarding possible use of synthetic turf on City park development and joint use projects.

The referenced technical report addresses subject areas such as turf types, user health, costs and benefits of synthetic turf, water use and other matters commonly associated with synthetic turf. Due to the length of the report, we have chosen to provide a link to the report on the Park and Recreation Department's web page. The report may be found at www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/consultantguide.shtml.

Recognizing not everyone has access to the internet, should you desire a paper copy of the report, please ask your Park and Recreation staff representative to provide you one.



Scott Reese
Assistant Park and Recreation Director

January 17, 2011
Date

Attachments:

Draft Departmental Synthetic Turf Use Guidelines

Distribution:

All Recreation Councils
Management Team
Area Managers
District Managers